



## Echoes from the Field

### KAIPTC Course on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Triggers the Creation of a Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) Desk at the Police Component of AMISOM in Somalia.

Written by  
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#### Introduction

The KAIPTC's Gender, Peace and Security (GPS) Programme organized a Pilot Course on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) in Fragile, Conflict and Post-Conflict Situations from 14 to 25 November 2011. Twenty-two (22) participants from Africa working in civil society organizations, women's and human rights organizations, police, AU and UN peacekeeping missions attended the course which was held at Busua, in the Western Region of Ghana. The Course began with introductory remarks about the expected outcomes of the course which sought to provide participants with knowledge about SEA and how to tackle SEA-related issues. Most importantly, participants were encouraged to apply the knowledge imparted on the field.

The story below is from the field and one of the outcomes of the SEA Course organized 5 months ago. It is narrated by Litho Lamin (Supt), Deputy Training and Development Coordinator at the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) who was a participant of the pilot course.

#### Background

The Republic of Somalia is located in the Horn of Africa. Before 1991, the country was one of the most beautiful and peaceful countries in East Africa with a formidable police force admired throughout the African continent and beyond. Somalia, however, lost this glory after the collapse of late President Siad Barre's military-led government in 1991. The ensuing vacuum created a power struggle eventually leading into violent conflict. Clashes between different clans erupted in all corners of Somalia as they fiercely contested to fill the political gap. The conflict resulted in massive loss of lives as well as damage to property and infrastructure. As the conflict continues to rage on, thousands of Somalis have fled the country and gone to neighboring countries as refugees.

The number of internally displaced people (IDPs) in Somalia have soared over the years and currently, most of the IDP camps located in Mogadishu house mostly women, children and elderly persons (the vulnerable). Majority of these people have been heavily affected by the conflict. Insufficient rain each year has also resulted in famine and drought in the country and made life more difficult for ordinary people.

*Some participants at the Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (Pilot) Course*



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# Echoes from the Field

Currently, a few African countries have sent personnel to Somalia through the African Union to help stabilize the chaotic situation. Through the deployment of African Union Peacekeepers in Somali (AMISOM) in 2008, peace is gradually returning to the country and thus providing confidence and hope for the people of Somalia.

## **The establishment of special desk on Sexual Gender-Based Violence (SGBV)**

In February 2011, I was seconded from Sierra Leone to Somalia as part of a police contingent of the African Union Mission's stabilization process of Somalia. The mission is geared towards Reforms, Restructuring and Training of the Somali Police Force (SPF)

Eight months after I joined the mission in Somalia, I was informed by the AMISOM Police Chief of Staff, Mr. Rex Dundun, that there was an advertisement on the website of the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Center, requesting applications from interested parties to pursue a course in Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA). My quest for knowledge, coupled with my dynamism for the protection of the vulnerable people, especially children, women and elderly persons in fragile conflict and post conflict countries, inspired my interest in the SEA course. I applied and I was selected together with other 25 participants from different African countries to attend the course. My participation in the SEA course greatly enhanced my knowledge and skills in dealing with SEA related issues.

The completion of the course exposed me to the many facets of sexual violations, exploitation and abuse in Africa, which occur as a result of ignorance and the gross misuse and abuse of power, especially during conflicts. I realized that sexual exploitation and abuse is evident everywhere; confronting us in our communities, our work places as well as in conflict and non-conflict situations etc. This terrifying revelation kept me wondering and asking what I could do to assist minimize this global menace. Before the end of the SEA course at the KAIPTC, I promised myself that I will do everything within my capacity as the Deputy Training and Development Coordinator - AMISOM, to sensitize colleague peacekeepers in Mogadishu on SEA related issues and to include SGBV in the training curriculum of the host country's law enforcement agency, the SPF.

Back in Mogadishu, I had a brief discussion with Mr. Rex Dundun, AMISOM Police Chief of Staff, about my intentions to establish a Gender desk in the mission area. Consistent with his ambitions to inculcate human rights values in the mission, Mr. Dundun heartedly welcomed the idea. He later gave me the go-ahead and encouraged me to work in collaboration with a colleague police woman peacekeeper, Madam Saluna Mutuah, who also has passion for Gender issues, to implement my ideas. The determination of the Chief of Staff and the commitment of Madam Mutuah encouraged us to approach the police leadership team in AMISOM who also accepted the proposal and gave approval for the desk to be established.

Verbal and written proposals about the establishment of a Gender desk were made at various levels within the mission and among the top echelons of the Somali Police Force and all those contacted welcomed and applauded the idea. As a result, a temporary Gender desk has been established in the police component of the mission to equip the Somali police personnel with skills and knowledge that will enhance their service delivery in SGBV related issues, during and after the armed conflict in Somalia. The Somali Police Commissioner, Dr Sheikhuna Maye, in his own wisdom and drive to bring the Somali police force to acceptable international policing standards has also welcomed the concept and he is now working to implement it in the entire Somali Police Force. Dr Charles Makono, the charismatic Commissioner of the AMISOM police component, is also determined to do everything possible to ensure that the concept of SGBV gains momentum and wider recognition within the SPF and the country at large.

Considering the success chalked so far, I encourage all colleagues who have benefitted from similar courses to stand up and become emissaries of the SGBV campaign. In our own little way, we can make an impact in ensuring that gender-based violence ends on the continent. As the saying goes "a journey of a thousand miles starts with a step" meaning every little contribution or effort is meaningful in the fight against SGBV. With our little contributions and actions we can make a difference! Think of the physical, emotional, and psychological trauma the victims of SEA and GBV are going through. Let's do something for it is not too late.

# 7th KAIPTC/ZIF Lessons Learnt Seminar Held

A 3-day Lessons Learnt Seminar aimed at discussing challenges to democratic governance in West Africa has been held at the KAIPTC.

The workshop sought to discuss the recent political activities and democratic processes in the sub-region as well as discuss issues and emerging security threats affecting the sub-region. The seminar also provided participants an opportunity to share country specific lessons on post-conflict recovery processes and make policy recommendation on how peace and democracy can be strengthened.

Delivering a speech at the official opening ceremony, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, Hon. Alhaji Mumuni, noted the relative peace and stability in the sub-region after the power struggle in Cote d'Ivoire and civil unrest in Nigeria. He added that while there are looming grounds for conflict in West Africa, it has become apparent in recent times that there are new potential drivers to these conflicts. Alhaji Mumuni mentioned illicit drug trafficking, religious extremism, and piracy as some of these emerging threats.

"If not tackled adequately, they could erode dividends of peace and stability and the road to peaceful recovery may not produce the desired outcomes" Alhaji Mohammed Mumuni said.

He proposed the formulation and implementation of detailed conflict resolution and crisis prevention strategies to address issues and challenges related to regional peace and security.

The President of the ECOWAS Commission, Ambassador Victor Gbeho, in his keynote address said the experiences of West Africa in dealing with state

implosion and insecurity has led to the realization that peace cannot be maintained in an environment of bad governance, marginalization, deprivation, and poverty. Amb. Gbeho added that to deal with current security threats in the sub-region, ECOWAS has reviewed its peace and security architecture as well its institutional set-up, in order to re-position itself to confront existing and new challenges to the human security. Key among these, he mentioned, are the

land mark protocols in 1999 and 2001 which set minimum constitutional convergence criteria for ECOWAS membership based on common values of democracy, separation of powers, the democratic control of the armed forces, guarantees of basic freedoms and zero tolerance for power obtained or maintained by unconstitutional means.

Welcoming participants to the session, the Commandant of KAIPTC, AVM Christian Dovlo indicated he was hopeful the workshop will lead to outcomes that will strengthen peace and democracy in the sub-region. AVM Dovlo was grateful to the Centre for

International Peace Operations (ZIF) and German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) for the solid partnership leading to the organization of the seminar and other policy-related seminars since 2003.

The deliberations at the seminar will be published as a report in which key policy recommendations will be highlighted. Participants from the workshop included high level officials from the ECOWAS Commission, senior government officials from the sub-region and representatives of civil society groups selected from West Africa.

**"If not tackled adequately, they could erode dividends of peace and stability and the road to peaceful recovery may not produce the desired outcomes"**



# KAIPTC holds Joint Retreat

The KAIPTC has expanded rapidly in terms of scope and size of operations after the development of its strategic and business plan in 2007 and 2009 respectively. The rapid expansion has necessitated a need to adopt more efficient approaches to both training and research activities. Since early 2010, for example, research activities have increased to cover more thematic issues in response to emerging threats which have also resulted in the development and delivery of additional training programmes. Post graduate programmes have also been introduced to deliver high level training in peace support operations. Growth in operations has further led to expansion of the human resource base and overall administrative services.



*Executive Management, Course Directors and Heads of Units and Programmes who participated in the Strategic review meeting*

A recent evaluation of the Centre's operations, both internally and by external partners, revealed the need to review the Centre's Strategic Plan to ensure it reflects both current and future dynamics and challenges. The Centre also recognises the need to strengthen teamwork within units and departments to ensure effective collaboration and efficiency in implementation of the strategic objectives and mission of the Centre.

A 3-day retreat was therefore held by the Office of the Commandant for key staff from all departments of the Centre to set the broad institutional frame for the development of an updated strategic development plan.

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#### The process aimed to:

1. take stock and reflect on KAIPTC's vision, mission and strategic objectives vis-a-vis operations and growth within the last 3 years;
2. assess, discuss and address challenges in the implementation of the 2010-2014 strategic and business plans;
3. assess, discuss and identify lessons from various reviews of the Centre;
4. determine future priorities for development and sustainability;
5. identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats; and
6. provide an opportunity and space for teambuilding.

#### The following were key outcomes from the sessions:

1. A clear strategy for institutional development and sustainability was determined;
2. Key areas of focus in the implementation of the existing strategy were identified;
3. An agreed list of priority areas for the Centre's operations, vis-a-vis the defined strategy, was determined;
4. A clear organisational structure, based on the existing and future needs of the Centres, was determined; and
5. Key tools for enhancing teamwork/working relationships for the attainment of centre's objectives were defined.

## KAIPTC Trains MONUSCO staff



KAIPTC Team and MONUSCO Head Office staff in a group photograph with the trainees.

The KAIPTC, in collaboration with MONUSCO undertook a Training of Trainers Programme for 35 UN staff in Kinshasa, DRC. The programme was aimed at providing MONUSCO field staff with the skills and knowledge base needed to carry out the Protection of Civilian Mandates in the mission area. The trainees organized similar training programmes in their respective provinces for their Community Liaison Officers (CLAS). The process also contributed to the

development of training modules on Protection of Civilians and Sexual Violence for KAIPTC.

The team that conducted the training included Levinia Addae-Mensah (Director of Plans & Programmes, KAIPTC) & Team Leader, Joana Osei-Tutu (Research Associate, REPPS Programme, KAIPTC), Dr. Linda Darkwa (LECIAD), Lt. Col. Kuseh, Lt. Col. Amoah-Boakye and Capt. Obese from the Ghana Army.

# PROMOTING FRENCH AT THE KAIPTC

## En route vers le bilinguisme

*Bienvenu M. Kimama*

Located within a sub-region where French is one of the official languages and conscious of its responsibility to develop and deliver internationally recognised professional training courses, the KAIPTC deems it an obligation to use English, French and Portuguese in the conduct of its operations. This is also based on a Memorandum of Understanding between the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and its Training Centres of Excellence (TCEs), which requires the use of the ECOWAS official languages (English, French and Portuguese) in all TCEs' activities.

It is based on this that the KAIPTC has been working to improve the French capacities of its staff and which led to the signing of an MOU with the French government to establish a French training programme in 19th October 2007. The programme was coordinated by the French Embassy through Alliance Française in the first year. Named "KAIPTC French Language Training Programme" the Centre took over the implementation of the programme after the expiration of the contract in December 2008. The programme has since been managed and coordinated by the Centre's French Translator and a French teacher.

### WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?

The KAIPTC French Language Training Programme is a staff capacity building programme that seeks to develop the skills of staff to speak, read and write French for general and professional purposes. The programme follows the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). It aims to complement other efforts to help staff acquire French language skills needed to communicate with and better serve participants/visitors coming from French-speaking countries.

### ORGANISATION

The KAIPTC French Language Training Programme is organised at three levels: beginner; intermediate; and advanced. Each level is apportioned 50 hours each per semester for tutorials in oral and written French. .

A placement test helps assess the level of students so they are placed in the most appropriate class, where their learning needs will be met. Classes run from Monday to Friday from 1430 to 1530, with a maximum number of 15 students per group. The beginner level currently has the largest class and is therefore split into three different groups. Given the limited number of teaching personnel and the hectic nature of the Centre's business, each group is taught for an hour every week. Sessions include lectures and practical exercises.

Written and oral examinations are scheduled every three months and the KAIPTC is working to ensure the French teaching programme is consistent with that of Alliance Française to allow students to register and take the Diplôme d'Etudes en Langue Française (DELFI) and the Diplôme Approfondi de Langue Française (DALF) exams at all levels.

### CONCLUSION

This French programme is one of the Centre's avenues to overcome French language-related challenges. It is aimed at reinforcing staff's ability to interact with and respond more appropriately to the needs of course participants and other stakeholders thereby confirming once more the Centre's reputation as an internationally preferred centre of excellence.





# KAIPTC Wins Peace Ambassadors Award



Brig Gen. Benjamin Kusi, Deputy Commandant of the KAIPTC, after receiving the award on behalf of the Centre

The Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) has received the 2012 Peace Ambassadors Award in recognition of its contribution to peace and security in the sub-region. The award was specifically to acknowledge KAIPTC's status as an accredited tertiary institution delivering a one-year Master of Arts Degree Programme in Conflict, Peace and Security.

The award was presented at the 6th Annual Conference of the Society for Peace Studies and Practice (SPSP) in Jaji, Kaduna held from 7th – 9th March, 2012 under the theme “Managing National and International Security in a Globalized World.”

A citation accompanying the award noted the great achievements and impact the KAIPTC has made in contributing to peace and security in the sub-region. The award presenters mentioned as innovative and insightful the introduction of Post Graduate Programmes aimed at equipping participants with leadership and managerial skills in Conflict, Peace and Security. The citation also noted the leadership role played by the KAIPTC as a regional Centre of Excellence as well as the high standards maintained in implementing research and training programmes.

Receiving the award on behalf of the KAIPTC, Brig Gen Benjamin Kusi (Deputy Commandant) was

grateful to the SPSP for acknowledging the work of the Centre. He noted the role of the SPSP to create a platform for scholars and practitioners to share ideas and experiences as a way of deepening understanding and practice of peace in the sub-region. Brig Gen Kusi indicated the readiness of the KAIPTC to share its expertise with other institutions in the sub-region to further promote peace and security in West Africa.

The KAIPTC is the first organisation outside Nigeria to receive the Peace Ambassadors Award in sincere recognition of the uniqueness of its peace studies programme. The UNDP, USAID and DFID were the first set of awardees in 2005.

# Activité de Rayonnement du KAIPTC

Le Centre International Kofi Annan de Formation au Maintien de la Paix (KAIPTC) a entrepris à Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, du 20 Février au 02 mars 2012, une formation de Policiers, Gendarmes et Juristes Militaire dans le cadre de leur préparation au déploiement dans la mission hybride des Nations Unies et de l'Union Africaine (MINUAD). Cette activité entre dans le cadre de l'apport du KAIPTC aux Pays de la CEDEAO contributeurs de troupes à la mission hybride au Darfour, elle porte sur le «paquet » de formation préalable au déploiement de la Police des Nations Unies suivi d'un exercice de simulation de la mission grande nature avec des groupes de patrouille s'exerçant dans la négociation, l'observation des droits de l'homme, la communication radio standard UN et le



• C/Supt.  
Dr. A. FOFANA-Directeur de stage



• Une Participante au Stage

Cette activité de rayonnement a connu un franc succès si nous considérons la portée donnée par les politiques au Pays des Hommes Intègres ; la mission du KAIPTC, avec à sa tête le Médecin Commissaire Principal de Police du Mali Amadou FOFANA, a eu l'honneur d'être invitée par le Ministre de l'Administration Territoriale, de la Décentralisation et de l'Intérieur pour échanger sur le maintien de la Paix en général et sur la part que le Burkina Faso entend jouer dans l'avenir afin de contribuer plus de troupes pour les missions dans le monde.

Au terme des deux semaines de stage, une autre Personnalité politique, le Ministre Délégué aux Affaires Etrangères et à la Coopération Internationale, a

rehaussé le niveau du dîner de clôture offert par le KAIPTC.

Malgré leur emploi du temps chargé, les deux personnalités ont tenu à nous affirmer la gratitude du Gouvernement du Faso et ont exhortés le KAIPTC à maintenir le cap de cette formation salubre pour la sous région Ouest-Africaine.

Les deux semaines passées au Burkina Faso nous ont aussi permis d'échanger avec les populations sur les programmes du KAIPTC, spécifiquement les Certificats, Diplômes et Master offerts par le FAAR et les thèmes spécifiques au Département de la Formation de l'Institution Tertiaire, qu'est le KAIPTC.

Ce passage du KAIPTC à Ouagadougou est le deuxième du genre dans l'espace francophone de la CEDEAO après Dakar au Sénégal en Mai 2011.



• L'équipe du KAIPTC rencontre le Ministre Burkinabé de l'Administration Territoriale, la Décentralisation et de l'Intérieur

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